

60c

226

MAR
02457

MARVEL® COMICS GROUP

APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®



TM

SHE'S BACK...
THE BLACK CAT!



Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

"BUT THE CAT CAME BACK..."

MITCHELL STATE HOSPITAL
IN UPSTATE NEW YORK LIKES
TO CALL ITSELF A MENTAL
HEALTH CARE FACILITY.

IN EARLIER, LESS ENLIGHTENED
TIMES, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN
CALLED AN ASYLUM... A PLACE
FOR SOCIETY TO LOCK AWAY
ITS MADMEN.

ALAS... SOMETIMES,
IT MUST STILL SERVE
THAT PURPOSE!

IT... IT'S
SPIDER-
MAN!!

NO! HE'S
UP THERE...
LAUGHING BECAUSE
I FAILED! I WAS
THE FOOLKILLER,
AND HE STOPPED
ME FROM KILLING
THE GREATEST
FOOL OF ALL...
MYSELF!

YOU'RE
IMAGINING THINGS,
MR. SALINGER.
THERE'S NO ONE
HERE BUT US! COME
ON... LET'S GET
IN OUT OF THE
STORM!

ROGER STERN
WRITER

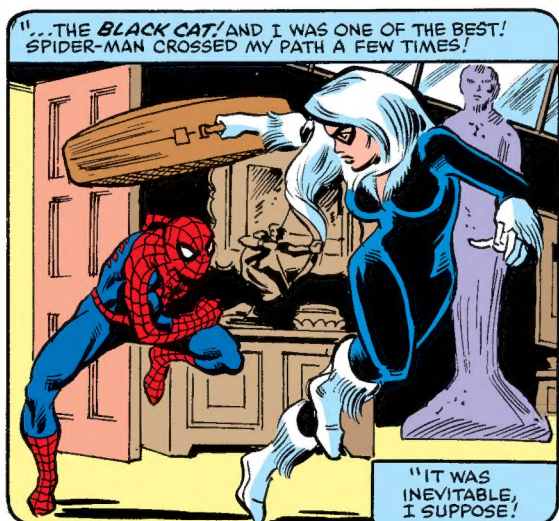
JOHN ROMITA JR. & JIM MOONEY
ARTISTS

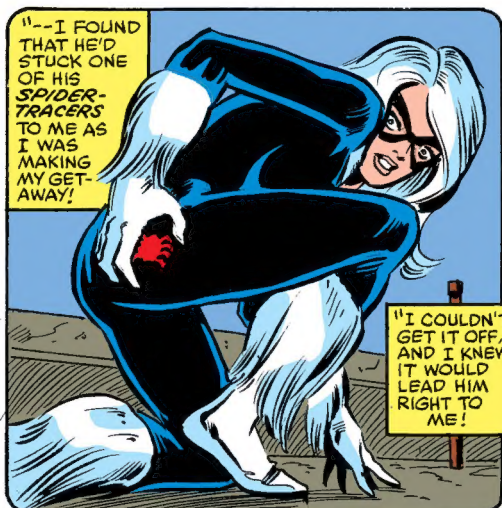
JOE ROSEN
LETTERER

BOB SHAREN
COLORIST

TOM DEFALCO
EDITOR

JIM SHOOTER
ORDERLY





"--I FOUND THAT HE'D STUCK ONE OF HIS SPIDER-TRACERS TO ME AS I WAS MAKING MY GET-AWAY!"

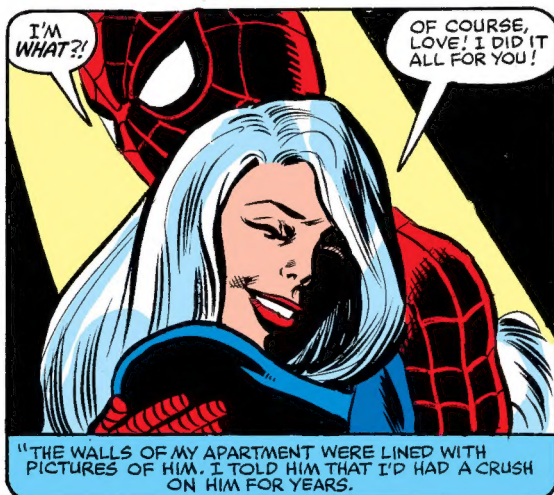
"I COULDN'T GET IT OFF, AND I KNEW IT WOULD LEAD HIM RIGHT TO ME!"



"WITH HIS SPEED, IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE'D CATCH ME! THERE WAS NOTHING I COULD DO BUT GO HOME AND... WAIT."

ALL RIGHT, CAT, I'M TAKING THOSE ARTIFACTS YOU STOLE! AND IF YOU TRY TO STOP ME--!

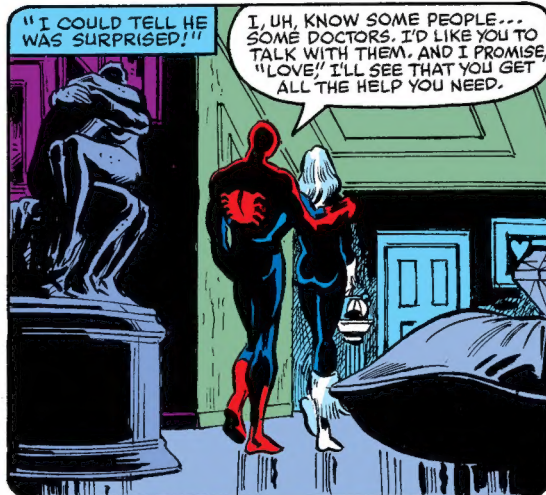
BUT WHY SHOULD I STOP YOU, SILLY? AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE I STOLE THEM FOR!



I'M WHAT?!

OF COURSE, LOVE! I DID IT ALL FOR YOU!

"THE WALLS OF MY APARTMENT WERE LINED WITH PICTURES OF HIM. I TOLD HIM THAT I'D HAD A CRUSH ON HIM FOR YEARS."



"I COULD TELL HE WAS SURPRISED!"

I, UH, KNOW SOME PEOPLE... SOME DOCTORS. I'D LIKE YOU TO TALK WITH THEM, AND I PROMISE, "LOVE," I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET ALL THE HELP YOU NEED.



EVENTUALLY, I WAS BROUGHT HERE.

SPIDER-MAN THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY...



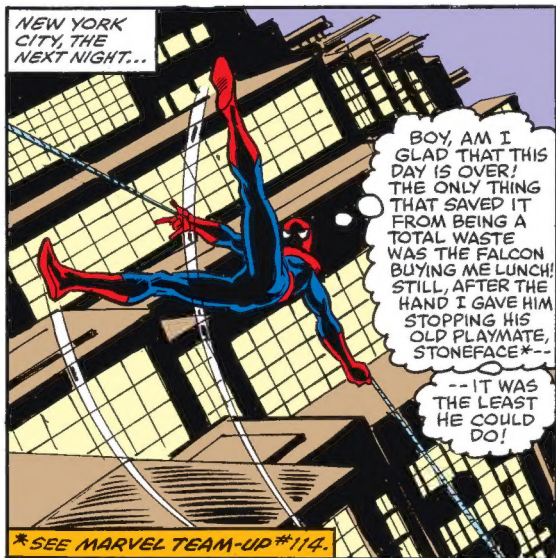
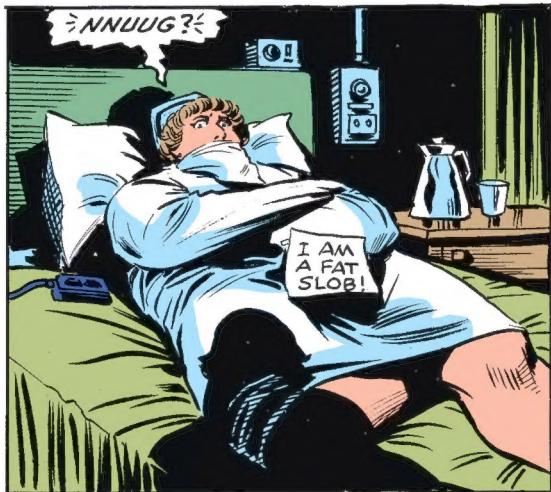
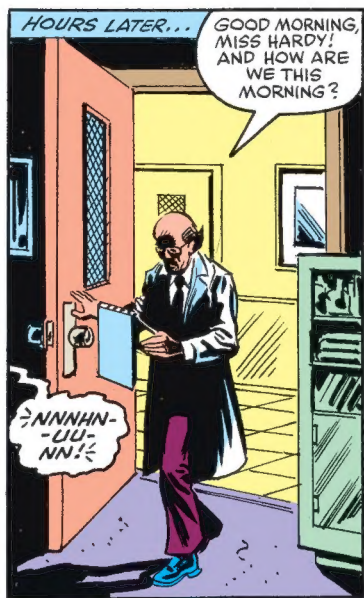
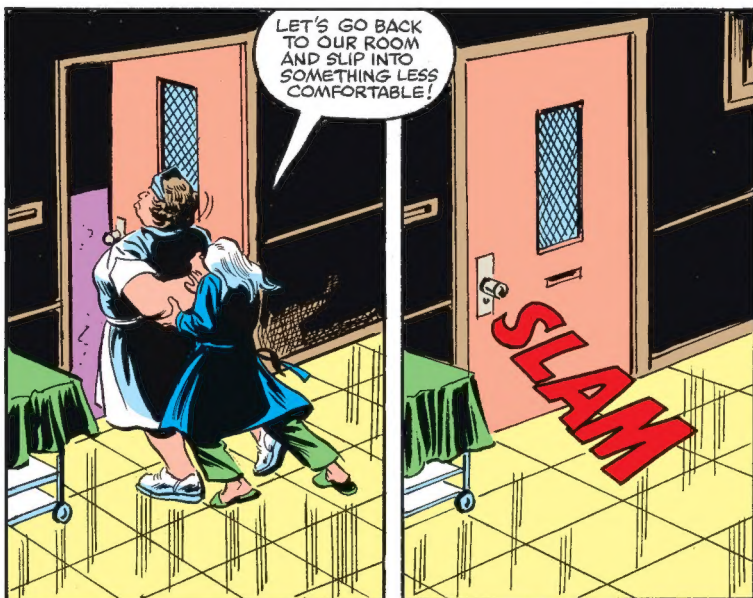
...WHICH, OF COURSE, IS JUST WHAT I WANTED HIM TO THINK!

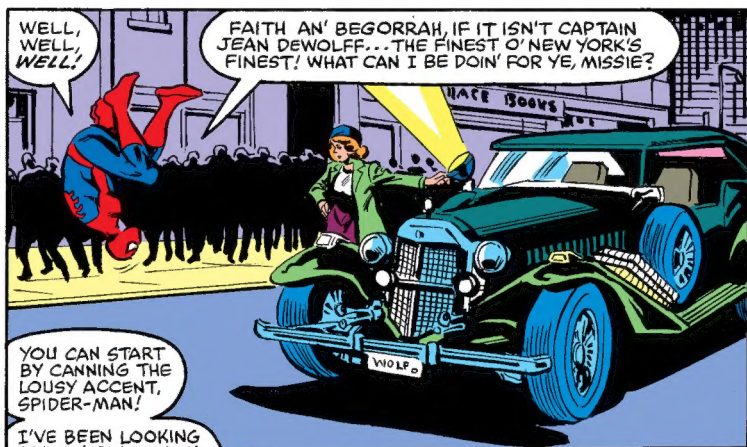


MMMUPH!?

IT'S SO MUCH EASIER TO BIDE YOUR TIME AND ESCAPE FROM A HOSPITAL... THAN FROM A PRISON!

COME ALONG NOW, NURSIE!





WELL,
WELL,
WELL!

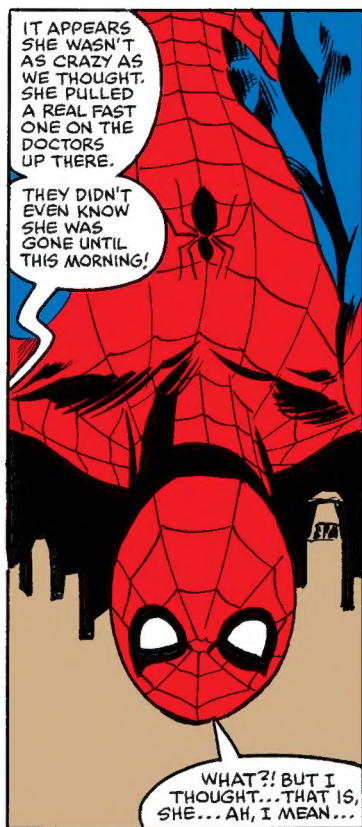
FAITH AN' BEGORRAH, IF IT ISN'T CAPTAIN
JEAN DEWOLFF... THE FINEST O' NEW YORK'S
FINEST! WHAT CAN I BE DOIN' FOR YE, MISSIE?

YOU CAN START
BY CANNING THE
LOUSY ACCENT,
SPIDER-MAN!

I'VE BEEN LOOKING
ALL OVER FOR YOU!
AN OLD "FRIEND"
OF YOURS BROKE
OUT OF MITCHELL
STATE LAST NIGHT...
FELICIA HARDY!

FELICIA... THE
BLACK CAT?!

UH-HUH!



IT APPEARS
SHE WASN'T
AS CRAZY AS
WE THOUGHT.
SHE PULLED
A REAL FAST
ONE ON THE
DOCTORS
UP THERE.

THEY DIDN'T
EVEN KNOW
SHE WAS
GONE UNTIL
THIS MORNING!

WHAT?! BUT I
THOUGHT... THAT IS,
SHE... AH, I MEAN...



... THANKS,
YEAH, THANKS,
CAPTAIN!

I'LL KEEP
MY EYES
PEELED
FOR HER.

I FIGURED
YOU'D WANT
TO KNOW.



WANT TO KNOW? OH, YEAH...
I WANT TO KNOW PLENTY!

THE BLACK CAT HAD
ME CONVINCED SHE
WAS EMOTIONALLY
UNBALANCED--

-- AND
ALMOST PSYCHOTI-
CALLY IN LOVE WITH
ME!



I WONDER HOW
MUCH OF THAT
WAS AN ACT?

I'M AFRAID TO
FIND OUT. I LIKE
THE CAT. IF
ONLY SHE WASN'T
A BURGLAR!



WHAT A WORLD! THERE'S
A LADY OUT THERE WHO
MAY--OR MAY NOT-- BE
WILD ABOUT ME. THE ONLY
WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO
TRACK HER DOWN...

... BUT IF
I FIND
HER, NO
MATTER
WHAT THE
ANSWER,
I'LL HAVE
TO TURN
HER IN!

MIDTOWN/
MANHATTAN,
ONE WEEK
LATER...

--SAVE FOR ONE IN THE HAND OF A CERTAIN UNINVITED GUEST!

BEAUTIFUL! AN ORIGINAL EHRENREICH, AND IT'S MINE -- ALL MINE! MMM!

I'M LUCKY I GOT HERE SO EARLY! IN ANOTHER WEEK--

--MR. BRADSHAW WOULD HAVE HAD THE REST OF HIS ART ACQUISITIONS UNCRATED AND ON THE WALLS!

AND THEN I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DECIDE WHICH PIECE TO... LIBERATE!

I MUST GIVE BRADSHAW CREDIT FOR SOME INTELLIGENCE, THOUGH...

...HIDING HIS ART ROOM BEHIND THE BOOKCASES WAS INSPIRED!

IF I HADN'T COME ACROSS THE ORIGINAL FLOORPLANS TO THIS PLACE, I MIGHT NEVER HAVE FOUND IT!

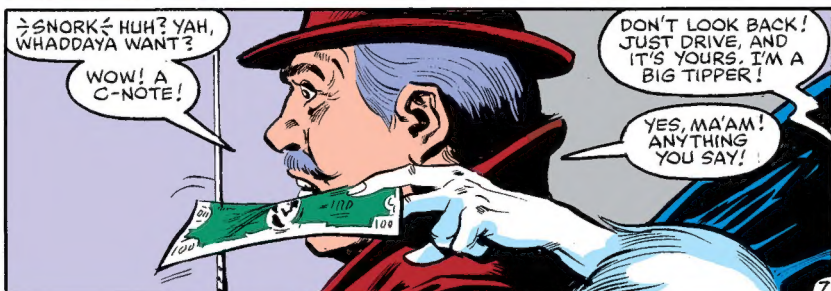
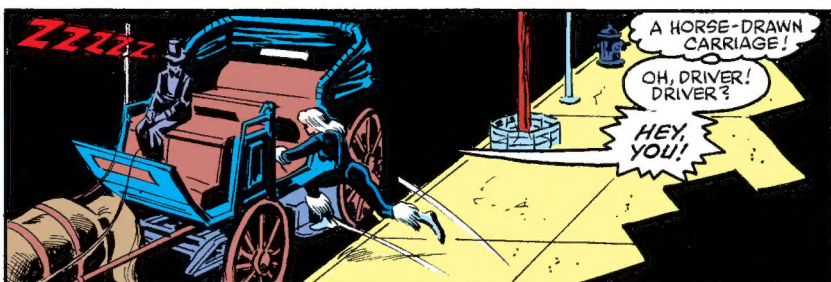
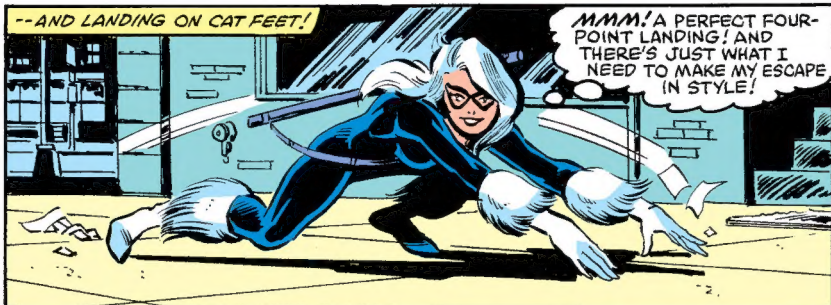
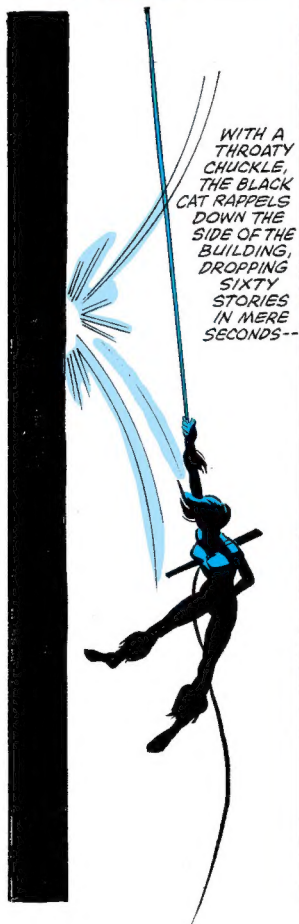
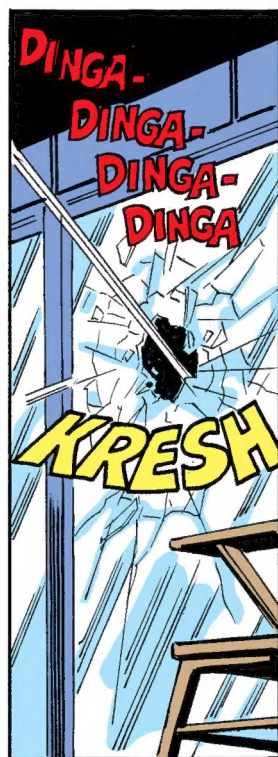
BUT THE WORLD'S BEST SAFE-GUARDS CAN'T STOP WALTER HARDY'S LITTLE GIRL!

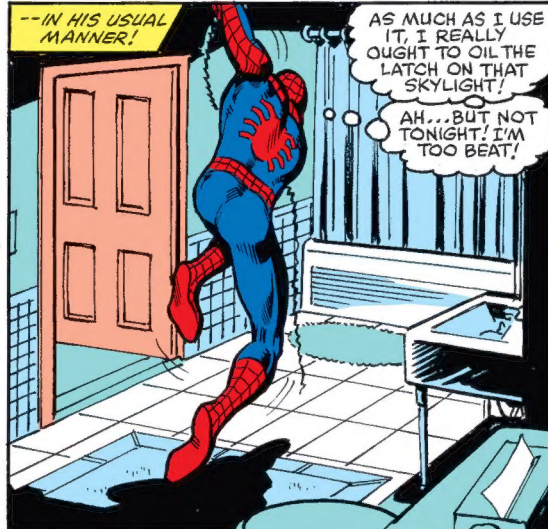
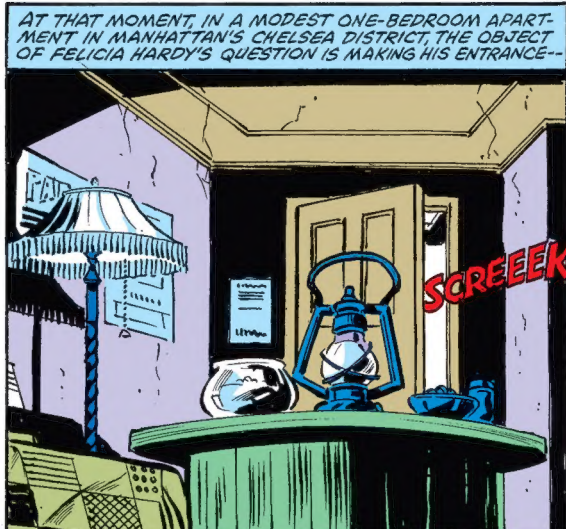
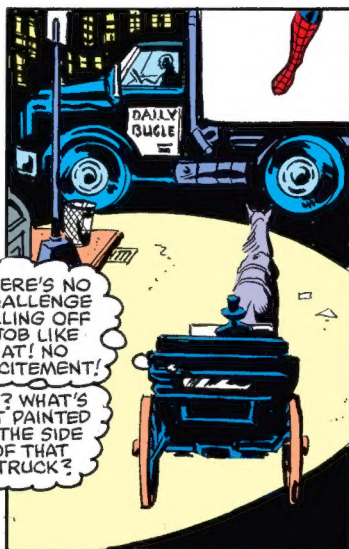
OF COURSE, DADDY WOULD HAVE EVADED THESE ELECTRIC-EYE BEAMS A BIT DIFFERENTLY--

--BUT I'M SURE THAT THEY WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN HIM ANY TROUBLE. AFTER ALL, HE WAS THE WORLD'S GREATEST CAT BURGLAR IN HIS DAY!

AS I AM IN MINE!

NO LIGHTS BURN IN THE PENTHOUSE APARTMENT HIGH ATOP THE TUMMINELLO TOWERS--

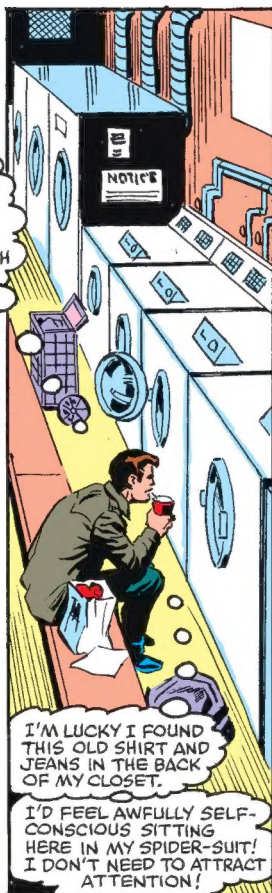




CONTRARY TO POPULAR BELIEF, THERE ARE SOME ADVANTAGES TO LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY!

FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE CERTAIN BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH NEVER CLOSE...

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE RELAXING WITH A QUARTER POUNDER AND A SHAKE, WHILE YOU WATCH YOUR SHORTS GO THROUGH THE SPIN CYCLE!



I'M LUCKY I FOUND THIS OLD SHIRT AND JEANS IN THE BACK OF MY CLOSET.

I'D FEEL AWFULLY SELF-CONSCIOUS SITTING HERE IN MY SPIDER-SUIT! I DON'T NEED TO ATTRACT ATTENTION!

OR DO I? WOW! WHERE'S SHE BEEN ALL MY LIFE?

H-HELLO THERE!



NICE NIGHT ISN'T IT? UH... FOR THIS TIME OF YEAR, I MEAN.

I'M PETER PARKER! I... LIVE JUST DOWN THE BLOCK! I'M A...



...GRAD STUDENT... AT EMPIRE STATE!

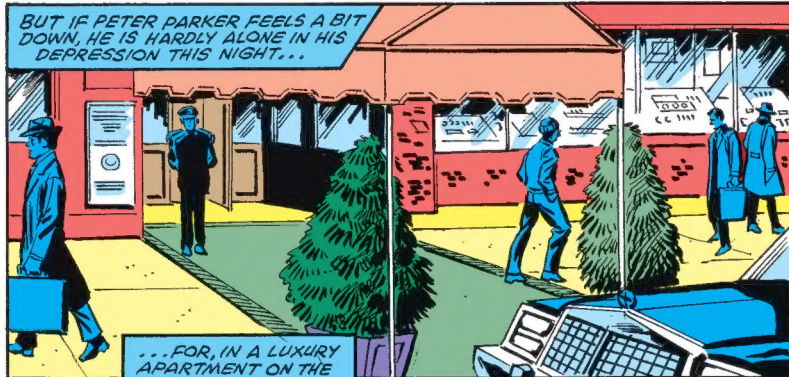
WELL...NICE TALKING TO YOU! HEH!



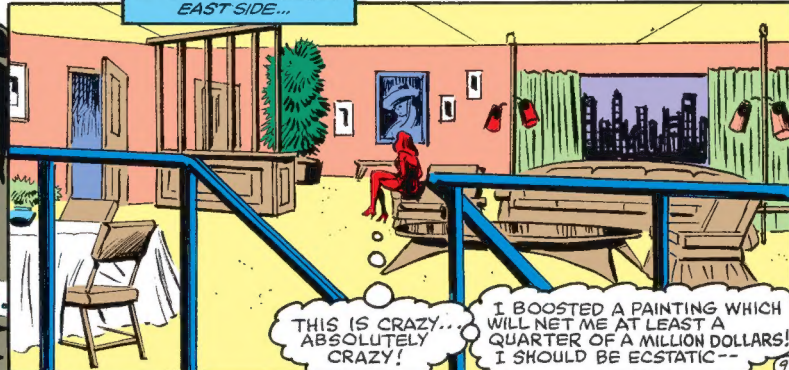
GIVE IT UP, PARKER-- YOU'RE GOING DOWN FOR THE THIRD TIME!

BOY, IF THERE WAS EVER ANYONE WHO DIDN'T WANT TO BE TALKED TO--! AW, I GUESS I HARDLY LOOK LIKE ANYONE'S DREAM DATE TONIGHT!

BUT IF PETER PARKER FEELS A BIT DOWN, HE IS HARDLY ALONE IN HIS DEPRESSION THIS NIGHT...

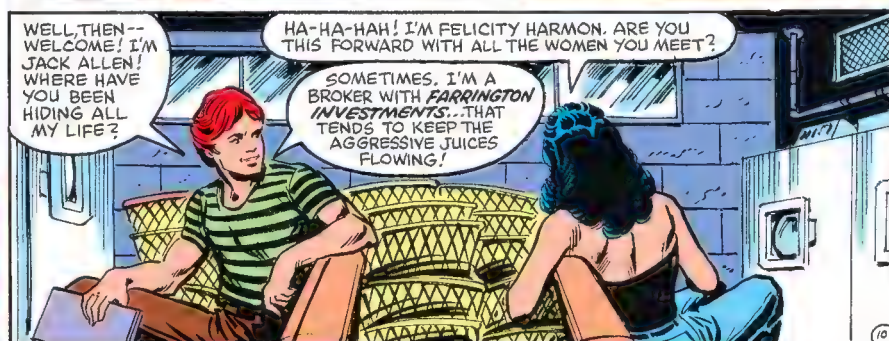
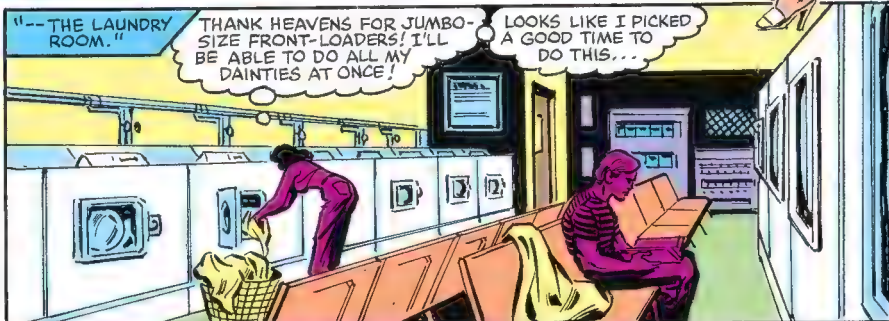
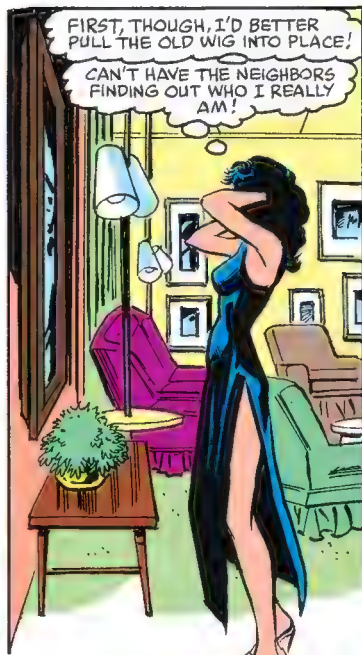
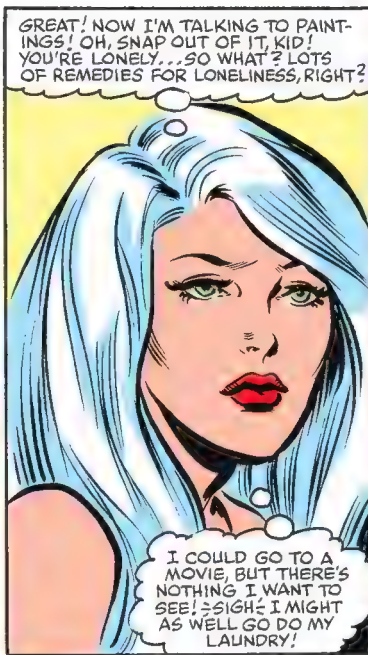


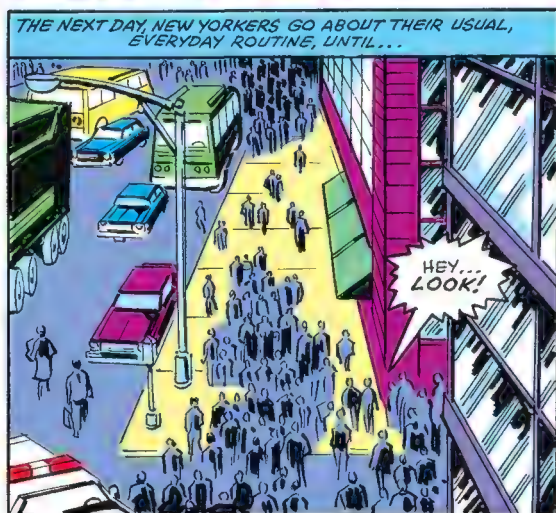
...FOR, IN A LUXURY APARTMENT ON THE CITY'S FASHIONABLE EAST SIDE...



THIS IS CRAZY... ABSOLUTELY CRAZY!

I BOOSTED A PAINTING WHICH WILL NET ME AT LEAST A QUARTER OF A MILLION DOLLARS! I SHOULD BE ECSTATIC--

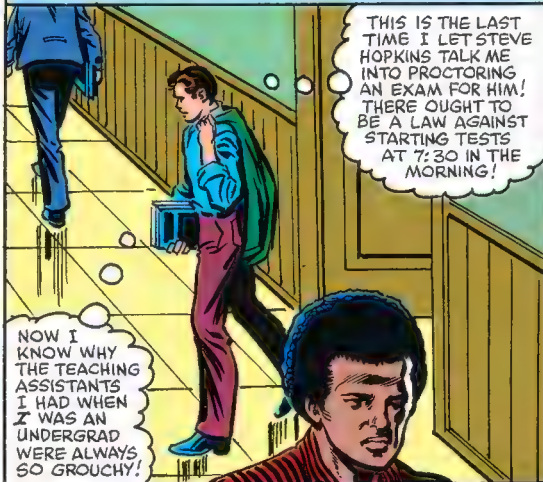






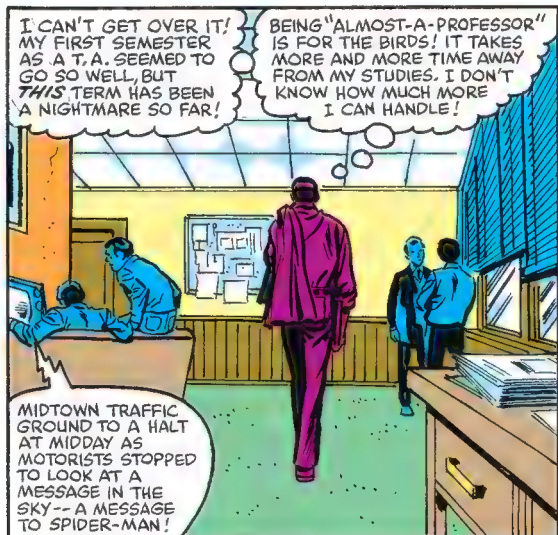
...SPIDER-MAN?!
WHO'D DATE HIM?!

IRONICALLY, ONE MANHATTANITE WHO DOES NOT SEE THE MESSAGE IS PETER PARKER, WHO HAS SPENT THE ENTIRE MORNING HERE, IN THE HALLS OF EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY...



THIS IS THE LAST TIME I LET STEVE HOPKINS TALK ME INTO PROCTORING AN EXAM FOR HIM! THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW AGAINST STARTING TESTS AT 7:30 IN THE MORNING!

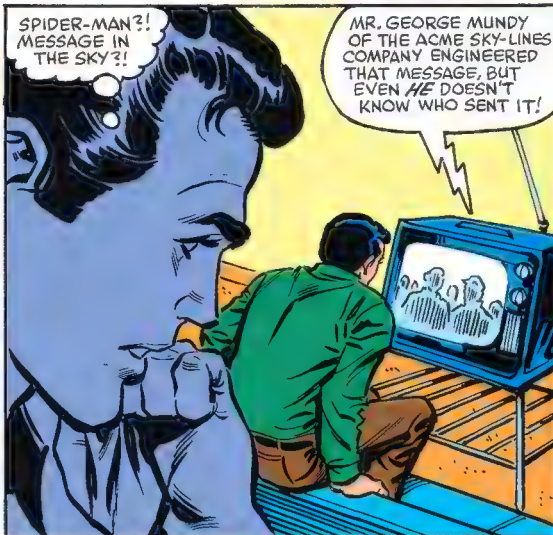
NOW I KNOW WHY THE TEACHING ASSISTANTS I HAD WHEN I WAS AN UNDERGRAD WERE ALWAYS SO GROUCHY!



I CAN'T GET OVER IT! MY FIRST SEMESTER AS A T.A. SEEMED TO GO SO WELL, BUT THIS TERM HAS BEEN A NIGHTMARE SO FAR!

BEING "ALMOST-A-PROFESSOR" IS FOR THE BIRDS! IT TAKES MORE AND MORE TIME AWAY FROM MY STUDIES. I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH MORE I CAN HANDLE!

MIDTOWN TRAFFIC GROUND TO A HALT AT MIDDAY AS MOTORISTS STOPPED TO LOOK AT A MESSAGE IN THE SKY -- A MESSAGE TO SPIDER-MAN!



SPIDER-MAN?! MESSAGE IN THE SKY?!

MR. GEORGE MUNDY OF THE ACME SKY-LINES COMPANY ENGINEERED THAT MESSAGE, BUT EVEN HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO SENT IT!



THAT MESSAGE AGAIN: "SPIDER-MAN, MEET ME AT OUR FIRST DATE SITE... TONIGHT!"

IT'S FROM THE BLACK CAT! IT HAS TO BE! WHAT DOES SHE MEAN "OUR FIRST DATE SITE"?

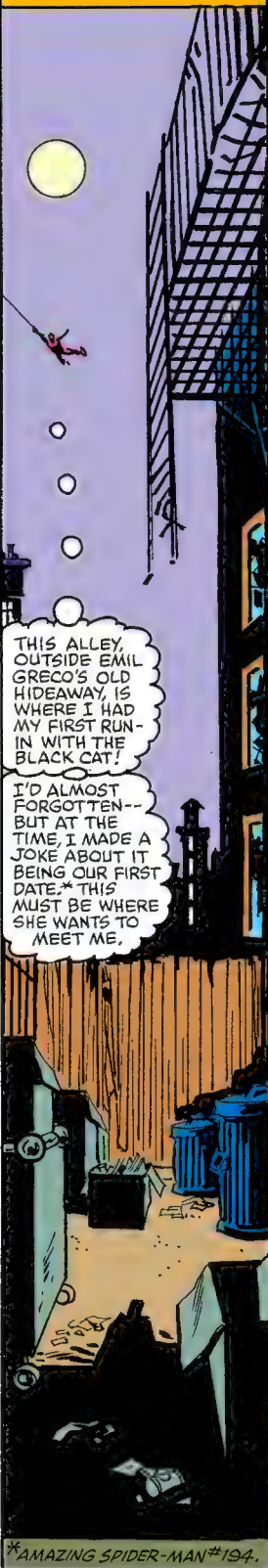


THAT'S RIGHT, MR. REED. I GOT A CALL FROM SOME LADY, WANTIN' ME TO SKYWRITE THE MESSAGE. AN' I NO SOONER HUNG UP THE PHONE, THAN A MESSENGER ARRIVED WITH THE MONEY!

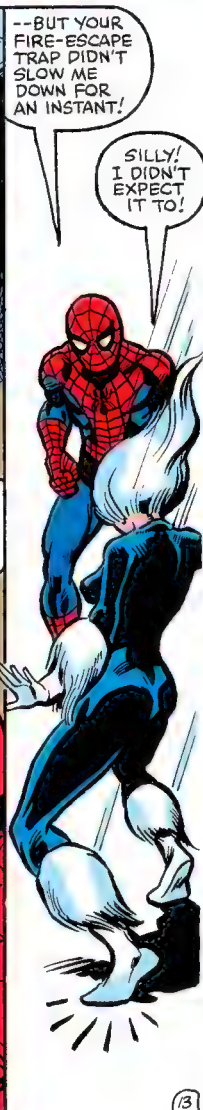
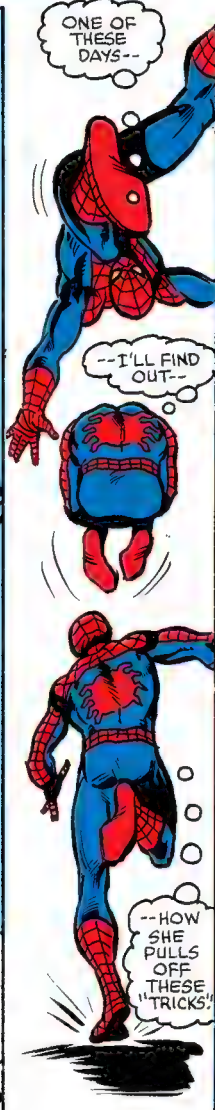
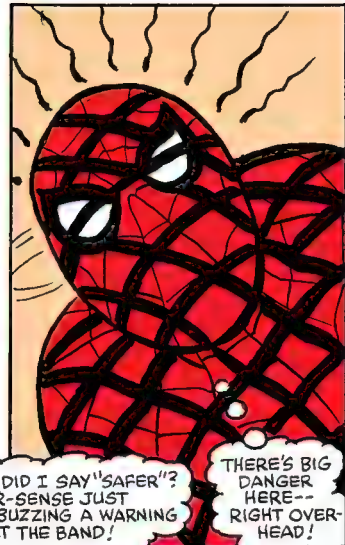
WHAT THE HECK, IT WASN'T ILLEGAL!

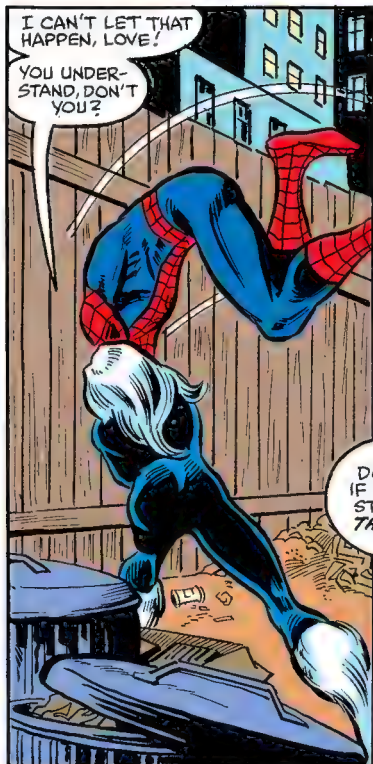
GREG REED FOR THE NEWS-AT-NOON! BACK TO YOU, CHUCK!

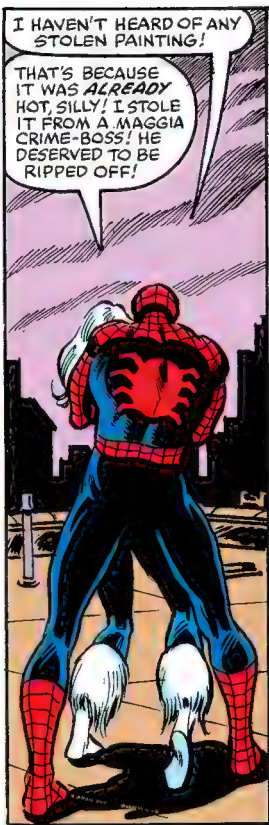
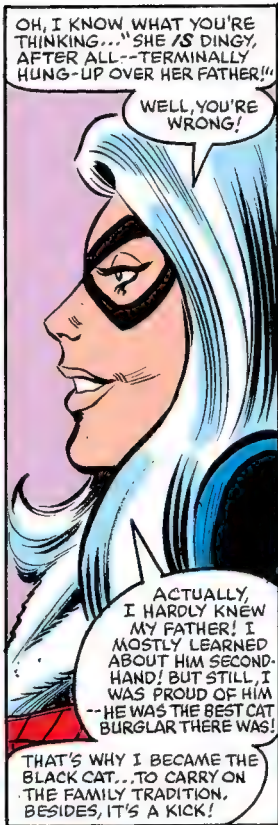
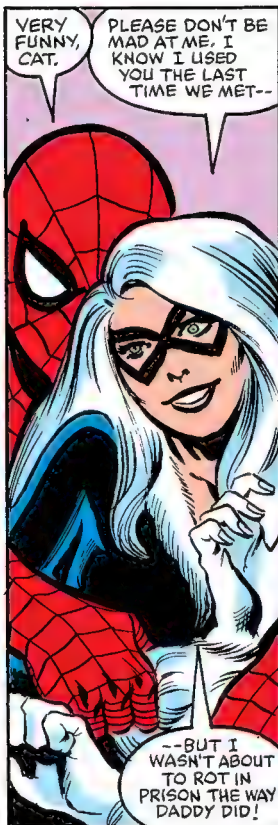
THAT EVENING, IN ONE OF THE CITY'S SEAMIER NEIGHBORHOODS...

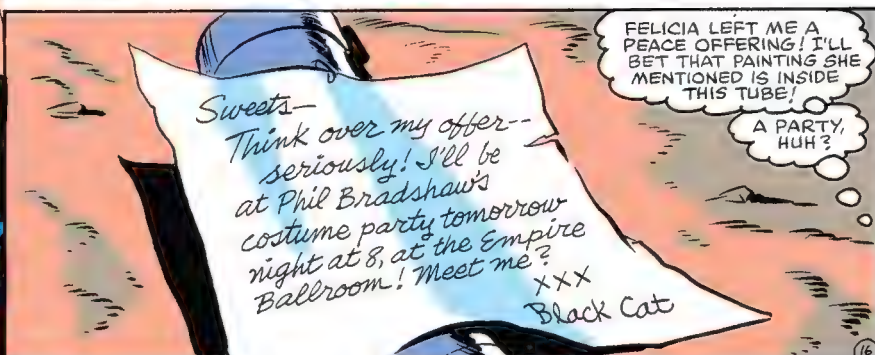
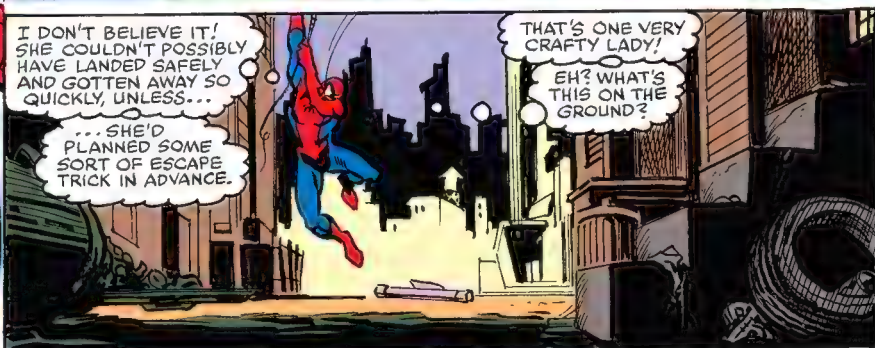
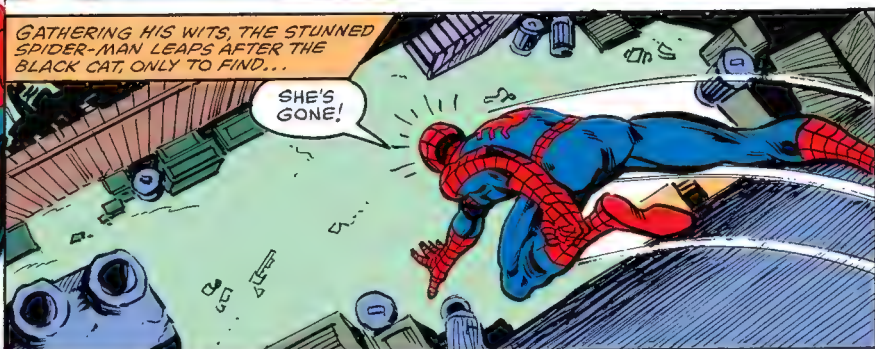


*AMAZING SPIDER-MAN#194.









SOON, AT A MIDTOWN POLICE PRECINCT HOUSE...

WELL, I'LL BE--! EHRENREICH'S "LONELY PEASANT"! THIS WAS FILCHED FROM A FRENCH GALLERY OVER A MONTH AGO!

RUMOR HAD IT THAT A LOCAL MAGGIA HONCHO--PHIL BRADSHAW--WAS TRYING TO GET IT FOR HIS COLLECTION.

BRADSHAW? THE GUY WHO'S HOSTING THE BASH AT THE EMPIRE BALLROOM?

THE SAME!

HOW'D YOU GET YOUR HANDS ON THIS?

I...UM...FOUND IT IN AN ALLEY!

ALL RIGHT, SO DON'T TELL ME!

BUT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE...

THIS PARTY IS JUST A FRONT FOR A MAJOR UNDERWORLD MEETING. STAY AWAY FROM IT!

WHY, CAPTAIN! DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF GUY WHO'D CRASH A PARTY?

THE NEXT NIGHT, THE EMPIRE BALLROOM IS ALIVE WITH COSTUMED MERRY-MAKERS, MOST OF WHOM ARE UNAWARE OF THE PARTY'S TRUE PURPOSE...

YEAH, IT IS A NEAT COSTUME-- BUT IT'S HOTTER THAN THE DICKENS IN HERE!

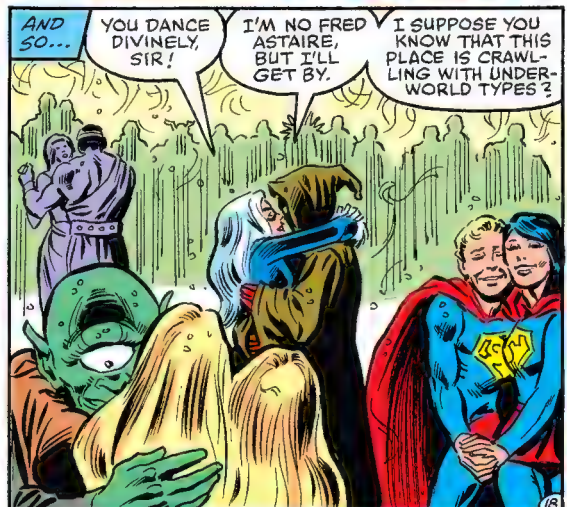
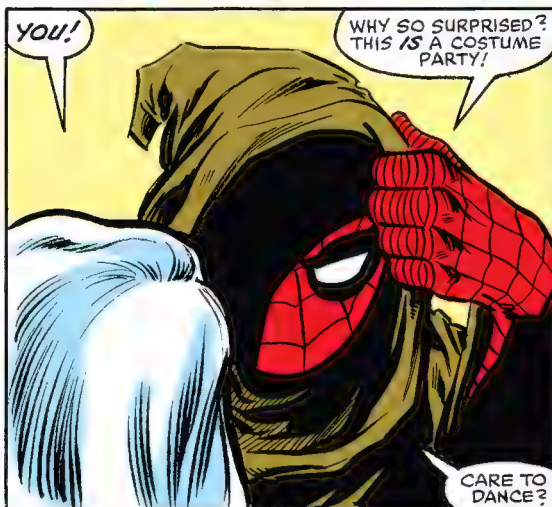
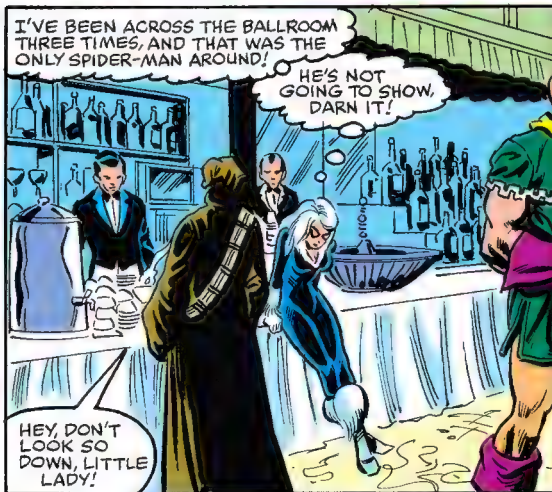
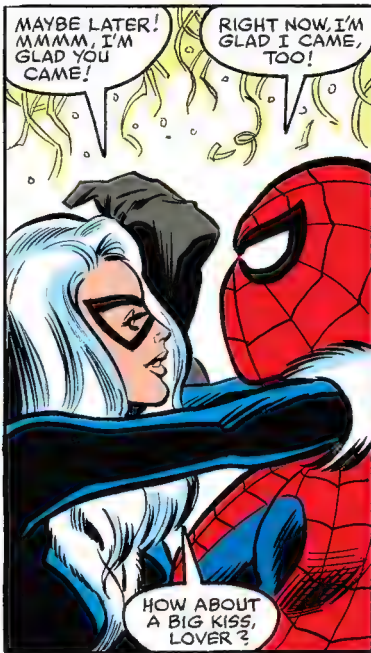
WHY CAN'T WE GO SOMEWHERE AFTER THE PARTY?

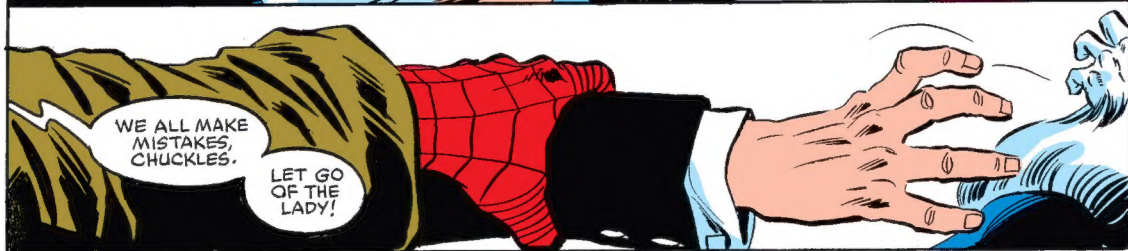
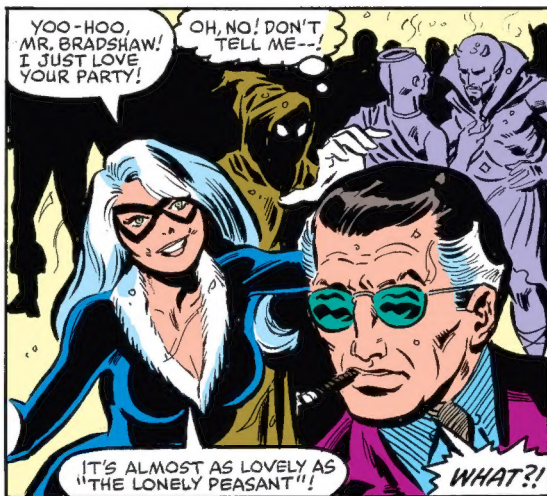
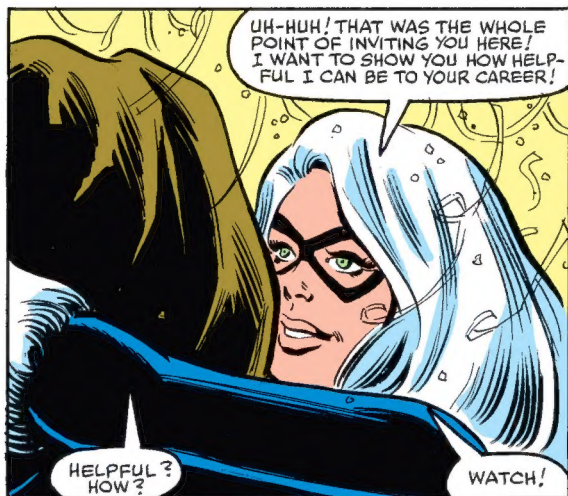
WE JUST CAN'T, THAT'S ALL!

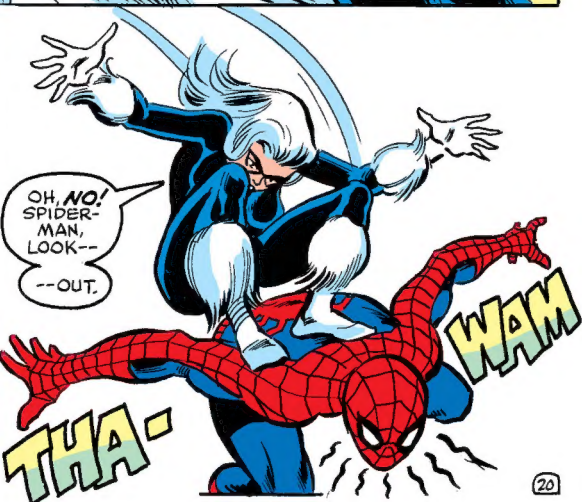
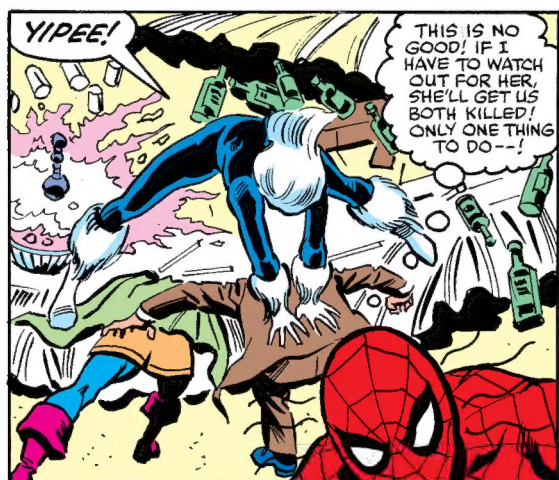
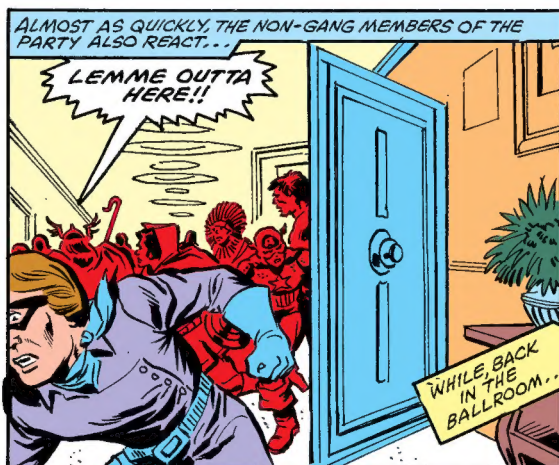
AND SOON, OVER BY THE PUNCHBOWL...

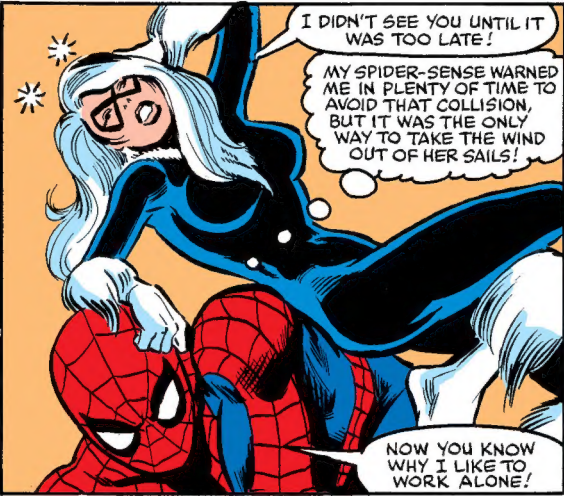
THERE YOU ARE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING ALL OVER FOR YOU!

WELL, YOU'VE FOUND ME! WANT SOME PUNCH?





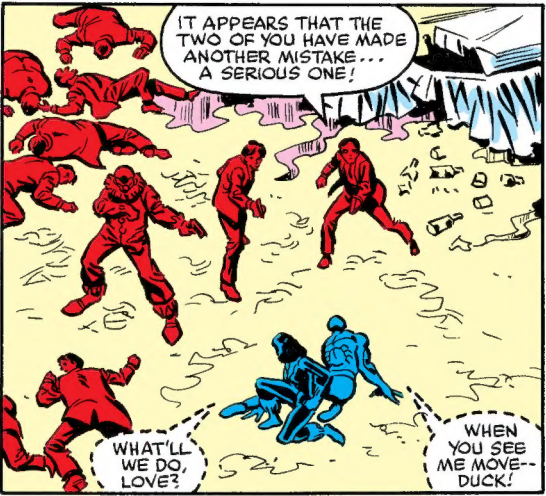




I DIDN'T SEE YOU UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE!

MY SPIDER-SENSE WARNED ME IN PLENTY OF TIME TO AVOID THAT COLLISION, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF HER SAILS!

NOW YOU KNOW WHY I LIKE TO WORK ALONE!

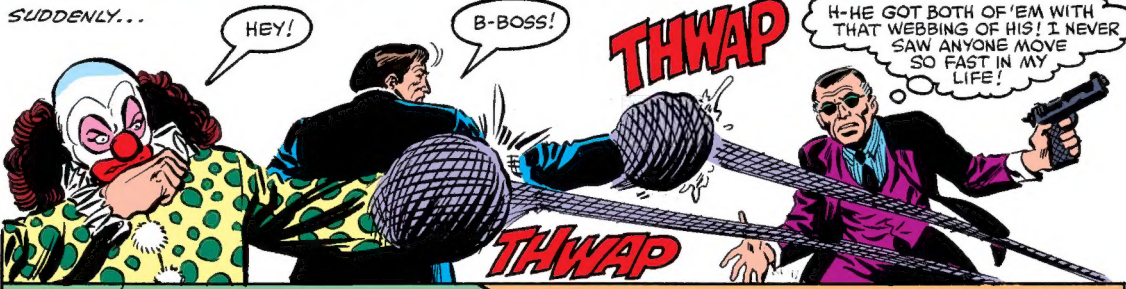


IT APPEARS THAT THE TWO OF YOU HAVE MADE ANOTHER MISTAKE... A SERIOUS ONE!

WHAT'LL WE DO, LOVE?

WHEN YOU SEE ME MOVE-- DUCK!

SUDDENLY...



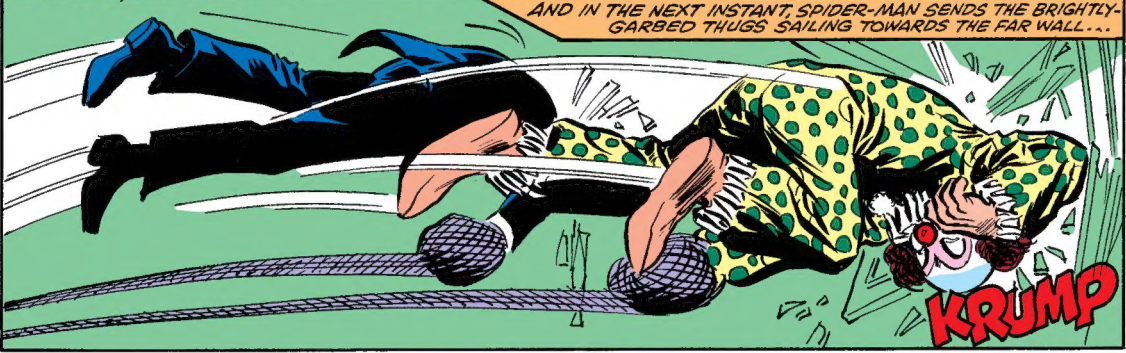
HEY!

B-BOSS!

THWAP

THWAP

H-HE GOT BOTH OF 'EM WITH THAT WEBBING OF HIS! I NEVER SAW ANYONE MOVE SO FAST IN MY LIFE!



AND IN THE NEXT INSTANT, SPIDER-MAN SENDS THE BRIGHTLY-GARBED THUGS SAILING TOWARDS THE FAR WALL...

KRUMP



I CAN'T LET HIM GET ME! GOTTA MAKE A BREAK FOR IT!

FUNNY, HE SEEMS TO BE IGNORING ME!

HELLO THERE, MR. BRADSHAW!



HUH?

BEAUTIFUL NIGHT FOR A RAID, ISN'T IT?

IS THAT AN ILLEGAL HANDGUN YOU'RE CARRYING? GOOD! THAT MORE THAN JUSTIFIES OUR SEARCH WARRANT!

